

MEDINA BUGLE

A Publication of the Medina Historical Society

Spring 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is almost upon us and we're looking forward to gearing up at the Historical Society with more programs and regularly scheduled newsletters.

We reached out to many of our members early this year to renew their membership dues and are grateful for the response. Many of you not only renewed your individual or family dues, but also made additional contributions. You can still renew your annual membership at our monthly meetings or by sending your membership directly to Medina Historical Society 406 West Ave Medina NY 14103.

Your dues keep this organization's doors open for Members, students, researchers and the public. We cannot do this without you and your support is appreciated.

Please visit our website historicmedina.org to view upcoming events and meeting information. Also visit our Facebook page to share ideas and pictures of Historic Medina.

Lastly I want to give thanks the many wonderful people who have done so much for the Historical Society in 2016. We have many people who are active and your efforts do not go unnoticed.

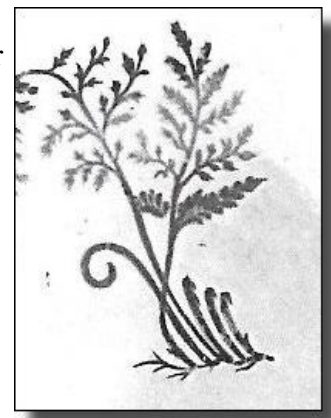
Looking forward to working with all of you in 2017.

*Sincerely,
Reinhard Rogowski*

Is Your Dance Card Full?

This lovely Programme Card was printed by The Times Pub. Co. Printers for the occasion of the Grand Re-Union of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, held on Wednesday, March 16, 1887 at Cooper's Hall which was located on the second floor of 439 Main St. in Medina.

Organized in Niagara Falls on July 3, 1875, the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association was a fraternal society that primarily provided life and health insurance. Before social welfare and Social Security, families could be devastated financially by the illness, disability or death of the breadwinner. Many benevolent associations were organized by workers to provide such benefits. Members paid dues and were assisted with a stipulated weekly payment if a catastrophe struck. The Medina Branch was established on Feb. 13, 1878, with ten members.



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Is Your Dance Card Full? *Continued from page 1*

The Medina Register July 5, 1883 contains the following notice:

Paid
*Received at Medina, June 27, 1883, of Michael Cooper, secretary,
Branch 10, Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, \$2,000, being in
full for amount due me from said association for the death of my
husband, John Owens.*
Bridget Owens

The Medina Tribune, Feb. 17, 1898 reports the festivities surrounding the Branch's 20th anniversary at which time it had an enrollment of one hundred and twenty-five members and "the honor of being one of the largest and most industrious of the associations of the State". Five hundred people attended the celebration which included dancing, card playing and musical entertainment.

In 1904, the local C.M.B.A. branch provided the gift of a stained glass clerestory window for the newly constructed St. Mary's Church (Holy Trinity). In 1920, the parent group merged with the American Insurance Union. The Knights of Columbus had become more popular in the intervening years.

The Programme for the Grand Re-Union on March 16, 1887 lists a variety of dances. Fittingly, the event began with a Grand March - all of the assembled guests would form a line of couples and march in a series of "figures". Waltzes, polkas and a variety of square dances filled the evening. A Quadrille was a square dance, performed by four couples, Lanciers was a variation of the Quadrille. Monnie Musk was a popular square dance tune at the time, likewise the Opera Reel was a popular fiddle tune in upstate NY. A Virginia Reel was another square dance. A Schottische was a slow polka, while a Prairie Queen was a type of Schottische. One can only imagine that those in attendance had a lively evening!

Contributed by Catherine Cooper



We are in a Centennial and Bicentennial time!

**It is the Centennial of World War I – the Great War - The War to End all Wars
and the Bicentennial of the Erie Canal.**

I'll start with some Erie Canal facts. We in Medina have always been proud to say we locally have the only road that goes under the canal. How many of us have traveled down the Culvert Rd. to go under the canal and tooted the car horn to hear the echo? Have you ever thought of the great feat of engineering that that culvert was? Remember at the time the canal was built there were no schools of higher education for engineering. The building of Erie Canal pointed out that schools were needed for engineers and other degrees to build our nation.

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Bicentennial of the Erie Canal *Continued from page 2*

July 4, 1817 in a meadow near Rome, NY people gathered, here the digging was easy and men in their tall silk hats and ladies in their finest clothes listened to the band and the speeches and watched as the first shovels dug into the soft earth for the beginning of “Clinton’s Ditch.” Machines were invented to help with the work; a stump puller for the thousands of trees that were cut down and had to have the roots pulled too. Drill bits to grind through the rock at Lockport. Nathan Roberts engineered the two way locks at Lockport the only two way locks on the canal; it took two years to complete the locks there.

By 1823 the canal was open for commerce between Brockport and Albany and New York. There were 18 aqueducts built to carry the canal over rivers and valleys; a total of 83 locks built with water proof cement created by Canvas White, that raised and lowered the packet boats on their way. Low bridges were the norm, they cost less to build; they gave us that great song, “low bridge everybody down..”

The original canal was 40 feet wide at the top and 28 feet wide at the bottom, the canal was 4 feet deep, the tow path was 10 feet wide and the whole canal was 363 miles long, the longest uninterrupted canal in the world and now the world’s longest State Park!

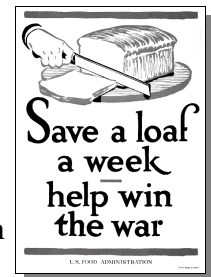
In each forthcoming newsletter I will add to information during our Centennial time, about the canal but if you are interested to learn more I recommend the book, “The Amazing Impossible Erie Canal” by Cheryl Harness – this is a children’s book and the illustrations are great along with lots of good facts that kids learn easily from. The other book I like is “Wedding of the Waters” by Peter L. Berstein. I got both at The Book Shoppe here in Medina. I, like so many of us, take the canal for “granted” but the more I learn about it the more impressed I am of the greatest ditch every dug!

On April 6, 2017 will begin America’s Centennial of World War I.

Woodrow Wilson was President and had worked hard to keep America out of the Great War that had started in 1914 but finally our nation joined Great Britain, France, Belgium, Japan, Italy and Russia – the Allies. General John Pershing was appointed Commander in Chief of the Expeditionary Force. The United States had been sending supplies to Great Britain and the Allies but the joining in the war brought manpower that was desperately needed.

World War I was unprecedented in the carnage of slaughter of soldiers and civilians, and destruction of land up to that time. The Battle of Marne had over 2 million troops in it. World War I also had many firsts: Chemical warfare, gas masks, flamethrowers, steel helmets, tank battles, aerial warfare, aircraft carriers, IQ tests, Guide dogs, blood banks, women enlisting in the armed services, propaganda films, military use of x-rays, and wireless communications.

I always found it interesting that enriched bread was an outcome of WWI. In the US the doctors found that many men especially those from city areas were malnourished, so they added vitamins and calcium to bread to improve the soldier’s health. Makes one think of the Wonder Bread adds of yesteryear with their pitch of building bodies in eight ways – enriched bread is still the norm.



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**Peace came in the eleventh month on the
eleventh day at the eleventh hour which we
now celebrate as Veteran's Day.**

Medina sent her sons to war too! Company F is well documented from here, but men that later settled here like Harold J. Powers (he was a wagoner) joined in Buffalo and served in WWI too. I think it would be great if you have a relative that settled in Medina after WWI but served in that war would let us know of your ancestor, you can mail your information to Medina Historical Society and Museum 406 West Ave. Medina, NY 14103.

Now for some "information" I hope you will enjoy it!

- "Doughboys" was a name given to the soldiers; the origin of the term is unclear (google it) but the name stuck and WWI soldiers were doughboys!
- September 29, 1918 239 men of Company F were part of the famous battle that broke through the Hindenburg line. They were commanded by Captain (acting Major) John S. Thompson, he received awards from three governments for his valor in this and other engagements. Corporal James P. Clark, the Medina American Legion is named for him, was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for leading his men into action after all the senior officers had been killed, it was noted that he directed his men's actions coolly and courageously.
- Other Medina men that distinguished themselves were:
 - Mahlon Ward – Distinguished Service Cross for bringing in wounded into safety under enemy fire.
 - Sgt. W.F. Smith Distinguished Service Award from Great Britain for gallantry under fire.
 - Raymond Reed received the American Distinguished Service Cross with Oak Leaf for twice performing deeds of outstanding valor.
- Other Medina men that were killed in this battle were,
 - Lawrence Askaw, Frank J. Bloom, W.J. Collins, Leon Clark, Albert Coon, C.J. Greene, Frederick Hellert, Walter A. Lindke, James and E.G. Sherritt of Albion, Stanislaus Stanek, Harry Tripp and Alex Wilson.

Alonzo Waters recounted that he went to Ft. Dix for six weeks and then overseas with no actual training. He was part of the 308th Field Artillery, the 78th Division. He landed at Liverpool, Eng. and then to a camp in France. His first engagement was Meuse-Argonne. In October he was wounded he recounted being in seven medical camps before landing in Camp Mills, Long Island. In February 1919 he returned to Medina and joined the Journal Register where he later owned and became a leading citizen of Medina.

Marjorie Johnson of Medina recounted of knitting for the Red Cross, she made sweaters, socks and mufflers. She said the yarn was coarse and smelled like mutton. She also said that she put her name in with a sweater and it went to a young man from Minnesota, they corresponded for some time during the war.

Contributed by Georgia Thomas

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

FAMILY (\$20.00/YR)
INDIVIDUAL (\$15.00/YR)

MEMBERSHIP DUES: _____

ADDITIONAL DONATION: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT: _____

MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: MEDINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION AND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:

MEDINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ATTN: MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
406 WEST AVENUE
MEDINA, NY 14103

Fruit Cookies from the recipe box in the kitchen of the Medina Historical Society and Museum

Mix together:

1 1/2 cups brown sugar

3/4 cup shortening

Add:

2 eggs

1 teas. cinnamon

1 teas. vanilla

1 teas baking soda mixed into 2 teas. milk

Add:

1 cup chopped raisins - seed first (we today don't know about having to seed raisins!)

hint: plump the raisins - put raisins and 3/4 cup water in sauce pan and bring to boil remove from heat and cool - for the daring make that 1 half bourbon half water to plump the raisins - tastes good!

Add the raisins to the flour to coat so they stay suspended in the batter better...

2 3/4 cups flour

1 cup chopped walnuts

Drop by spoon on greased and floured cookie sheets or use parchment paper lined sheets

Bake at 350 for 10 to 12 minutes

MEDINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Officers 2017

President: Reinhard Rogowski

Vice President/Treasurer: Craig Lacy

Secretary: Shane Sia

Membership: Gail Miller

Newsletter: Georgia Thomas

Other Board Members

Catherine Cooper

Barb Filipiak

Cindy Robinson

Kay VanNostrand

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

Lee-Whedon Library, 620 West Ave.

Mon. Feb. 27, 2017 at 7:00 p.m

Mom and Pop Farming in Orleans County

Presenter: Holly Canham

Mon. Mar. 27, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

The Cobblestone Inn: A History)

Presenter: Matt Ballard

Mon. Apr. 24, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Famous Crimes and Murders in Orleans County by Joseph Cardone